

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 190026

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RH, ZA, US

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: REPLY TO ZAMBIAN REQUEST FOR U. S. TO
PLAY ACTIVE ROLE IN SETTLEMENT NEGOTIATIONS

REF.: (A) LUSAKA 1439; STATE 180576

1. YOU MAY TELL CHONA THAT DEPARTMENT MOST GRATEFUL TO HIM
AND TO PRESIDENT KAUNDA FOR BRIEFING YOU ON CURRENT STATUS
OF EFFORTS TO SOLVE RHODESIAN INDEPENDENCE PROBLEM, AND
PARTICULARLY FOR CONFIDENCE EXPRESSED IN USG BY PRESIDENT
KAUNDA. DEPARTMENT HAS GIVEN VERY CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO
LATEST ZAMBIAN ANALYSIS AND PROPOSALS AS DESCRIBED BY CHONA.

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2. OUR CONCLUSION IS THAT WE STILL SEE NO EFFECTIVE ROLE

THAT USG COULD PLAY AS CATALYST TO MOVE SMITH AND ANC TO NEGOTIATING TABLE. WHILE SMITH MIGHT LISTEN TO USG REPRESENTATIVE, WE HAVE NEITHER CARROT NOR STICK TO BUDGE HIM. WE BELIEVE THAT MOST EFFECTIVE THING WE CAN DO AT THIS STAGE IS TO REPEAL BYRD AMENDMENT BOTH TO CUT OFF NEEDED FOREIGN EXCHANGE FOR SMITH REGIME AND ALSO TO REMOVE PSYCHOLOGICAL PROP TO REGIME PROVIDED BY OUR IMPORTS OF RHODESIAN CHROME. THE ADMINISTRATION IS GIVING ITS FULL

SUPPORT TO REPEAL AND WE HOPE THAT REPEAL BILL WILL NOW BE VOTED ON AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER CONGRESS RESUMES SESSION EARLY IN SEPTEMBER.

3. WE FULLY CONCUR IN ZAMBIAN VIEW THAT SOONER NEGOTIATIONS GET STARTED THE BETTER. HOWEVER, FOR U. S. TO SEND REPRESENTATIVE TO SMITH WOULD NOT, IN OUR VIEW, HAVE ANY HELPFUL EFFECT ON SITUATION. RATHER, SMITH COULD BE EXPECTED TO USE VISIT TO BOLSTER HIS POSITION NO MATTER WHAT WE SAID TO HIM. SOUTH AFRICANS IN FAR BETTER POSITION TO PROD SMITH BY POINTING OUT POSSIBILITY OF COMMUNIST INTERVENTION AND IT IS DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT THEY HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO.

4. YOU MAY ALSO TELL CHONA THAT WE HOPE THAT ZAMBIANS WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH US ON RHODESIAN DEVELOPMENTS. FOR OUR PART WE SHALL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW DEVELOPMENTS CLOSELY AND, IF OCCASION ARISES WHERE WE CONVINCED THAT WE CAN PLAY EFFECTIVE ROLE IN FURTHERING GOALS WE SHARE WITH ZAMBIANS IN RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT, WE WILL CONSULT WITH THEM.

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5. YOUR BRITISH COLLEAGUE SHOULD BE IN GOOD POSITION TO GIVE YOU READING ON BRITISH VIEW OF PROSPECTS FOR SETTLEMENT. FROM WHAT WE HAVE SEEN HERE, BRITISH APPEAR CONVINCED THAT SMITH REGIME ANXIOUS TO FIND SETTLEMENT DESPITE SMITH'S DEVIOUS MANEUVERS TO EXPLOIT ANC DIVISIONS. FYI. WHILE BRITISH INFLUENCE ON SMITH MAY BE LIMITED, IT IS STILL GREATER THAN OURS. IF BRITISH, WITH CONTACTS THEY HAVE IN ANC AND WITH RHODESIA'S NEIGHBORS AND MOST RECENTLY WITH SMITH HIMSELF, ARE UNABLE TO MOVE

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SMITH, IT IS DIFFICULT, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE, TO SEE HOW WE COULD BE EXPECTED TO DO SO. HENCE ANY INTERVENTION ON OUR PART COULD ONLY CONFUSE ISSUES, DELAY MOVEMENT TOWARD NEGOTIATIONS AND RESULT IN A NET EMBARRASSMENT FOR US. END FYI. KISSINGER

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